

Optional Retirement Plan and Local Retiree Eligibility

Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) Participants

State employees whose employing agencies participate in an Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) instead of the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) defined benefit plan may enroll in the State Retiree Health Benefits Program at the time of retirement if they meet all other eligibility criteria (See ***Retiree Fact Sheet #2, Eligibility, Enrollment and Plan Choices***) and are receiving an immediate periodic benefit from their ORP. An example of an ORP vendor is the Teachers Insurance Annuity Association—College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA/CREF), but eligible vendors will include all those qualified as an ORP.

Unlike VRS retirees, eligibility for ORP retirees will continue to be administered by their pre-retirement agency Benefits Administrator. This includes submission of enrollment forms to make allowable plan or membership changes, Open Enrollment changes and address changes. Questions regarding premium billing or plan benefits should be directed to the claims administrator (Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield or Kaiser Permanente, as appropriate). See your membership card for the Member Services telephone number or plan Web site.

Local Retirees

Your agency Benefits Administrator will notify you before retirement if you fall under the category of a Local Retiree. In general, these are retirees in positions that have been transferred from state to local entities (or vice versa), but, based on contract or legislative provisions, have maintained eligibility for coverage under the State Retiree Health Benefits Program.

Like ORP retirees, eligibility for Local Retirees will continue to be administered by their pre-retirement agency Benefits Administrator. This includes submission of enrollment forms to make allowable plan or membership changes, Open Enrollment changes and address changes. Questions regarding premium billing or plan benefits should be directed to the claims administrator (Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield or Kaiser Permanente, as appropriate). See your membership card for the Member Services telephone number or plan Web site.